

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 23 No. 1

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Whole No. 268



Cover of the March or April 1876 issue of "Frank Leslie's Popular American Tales for Boys" containing "Lone Wolf, the Apache Chief; or, A Boy's Adventures among the Indians." This series is one of the rarest of the "thick" novels; it was 9½x6¼ inches, 56 pages, and sold for 30¢.

The Pseudonyms of Edward S. Ellis

by Denis R. Rogers

(Concluded)

Part 6—Circumstantial Pseudonyms.

Howard M. Boynton: I am reluctant to mention this name as a possible pseudonym of Ellis, for I have no proof whatever. It was used for five detective stories by Beadle & Adams in the octavo edition of their Boys Library of Sport, Story & Adventure between June 1889 and March 1890 (Nos. 272, 280, 290, 300 and 308) and also for at least one sketch—"An Ingenious Deliverance"—in "The Argosy" (Vol. 7, No. 26. 5/25/1889), to which Ellis was a not infrequent contributor.

Boynton Belknap M. D., was an Ellis pen name and Boynton Randolph M. D., was almost certainly another of his pseudonyms. Similar names have already led to far too many unsubstantiated "credits" and I should not be suggesting Boynton as an Ellis pen name were it not for the fact that Beadle's Boys Library of Sport, Story & Adventure No. 308 (8/8/1890) is "The Cadet Detective or The Mystery at West Point", which tells how a detective, disguised as a cadet, traces a thief who stole \$20,000 in gold. About this time Ellis' only son was graduating at West Point, later becoming mathematics instruc-

tor there. Also about this time we know that Ellis had joined the throng of Detective story writers, turning out some particularly wild specimens under the pen name, J. G. Bethune, M. D. As Ellis' love of West Point is only too well known I feel that the name, Howard D. Boynton, is worthy of further investigation and should be grateful for details of any other stories or sketches by Howard D. Boynton, which readers may have come across.

Incidentally in "Low Twelve", a collection of sketches "illustrative of the fidelity of Free Masons to one another in times of distress and danger" (F. R. Niglutch, 1907), Ellis gives a brief history (pages 190-195) of one, Captain George B. Boynton, a soldier of fortune, born in 1842 (and therefore contemporary with Ellis himself), who saw service in many wars all round the world, from the American Civil War onwards. It could be that admiration of this adventurous fellow-mason led Ellis to use Boynton as part of no less than three pseudonyms.

Edwin Emerson: This name was used for a number of Starr's American Novels between 5/16/1871 and 4/15/1873. Of course Frank Starr &

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Company was a subsidiary of Beadle & Company, Frank Starr himself being Beadle's foreman (according to Edmund Pearson: "Dime Novels", Boston 1929, Page 53). The purpose of using the name Starr seems to have been the provision of an apparent competitor. Accordingly in this series a number of additional pseudonyms were used by regular Beadle authors to assist in the deception. Of these Lieut. Ned Hunter was attached to two Ellis stories and Professor Johannsen suggests that Edwin Emerson may also have belonged to Ellis. (Source: "The House of Beadle & Adams", Vol. II, Page 95). Another school of thought is that Edwin Emerson was a real person; against that it can be said that the stories are quite in the Ellis style of the time and that Miller gives Edwin Emerson as a pseudonym of Emerson Rodman! However this is all guess work and it must be admitted that no proof is available.

Captain Hamilton Holmes: Edmund Pearson ("Dime Novels", Boston 1929, Page 263) claims this to have been a pen name of T. C. Harbaugh, but Professor Johannsen rightly points out that "Old Rube the Hunter or The Crow Captive" (American Tales No. 31, 1/16/1866) is not the work of a boy of sixteen and that Harbaugh himself stated that his first literary work (for Street & Smith) appeared in 1867. Harbaugh spoke of Hamilton Holmes as if he were a real person and that may have been the case. Professor Johannsen goes on to say, however, that if he had to make a guess, he would ascribe the two Hamilton Holmes stories to Edward S. Ellis on the grounds that: "they appeared only a few months after Irwin P. Beadle had announced that thereafter Ellis would write exclusively for him, and it is possible that the stories were already written or contracted for by the older firm, Beadle & Company, and, under the circumstances, Ellis did not want his own name to appear elsewhere." (Source: "The House of Beadle & Adams, Vol. II, Page 144). The style certainly does not rule out Ellis, but

the truth must await proofs.

Captain Wheeler U. S. A.: This name was used for Irwin P. Beadle's Ten Cent Novels No. 5: "The Track of Fire or A Cruise with the Pirate Semmes" (2/1/1864). Professor Johannsen could not find any evidence as to whether this was a real person or a pseudonym, but points out that "The Web of Fate" by Captain Wheeler, U. S. A., stated of the author: "He is a popular officer of the army, who has been in active service since the commencement of the rebellion" (Source: "The House of Beadle & Adams", Vol. II, Page 293). Captain Wheeler is included here, however, because Mr. Johannsen in a passing remark suggests that perhaps it was a pen name of Ellis. (Source: "The House of Beadle & Adams, Vol. II, Pages 95 and 323). Certainly Ellis liked military titles, but I don't fancy Captain Wheeler as a starter, for very few of Ellis' early stories have a nautical setting and all the Wheeler stories are of the sea.

Part 7—Conjectural Pseudonyms

Captain C. B. Ashley: Miller shows this as a pen name of Ellis and I am informed that it has also been credited to Castlemon. I have no proof as yet.

Lieut. Henry L. Boone: According to the late Chas. Jones Ellis wrote for The Campfire Library (George Sibley Co: New York, 1887 onwards) under this pen name. (Source: Correspondence with Mr. Stanley A. Pachon of Bethlehem, Pa.) Miller gives Captain Henry L. Boone as a pseudonym of Percy B. St. John and so does Professor Johannsen (Source: "The House of Beadle & Adams", Vol. II, Page 321). No evidence has so far come my way.

Miller also includes in his list of Edward S. Ellis pseudonyms the following names, about which I have been unable to bring to light any evidence whatsoever:

Warne Ellis, Captain Geo. Grenville, U. S. A., Lt. Hollis Hayne, Captain M. Hoyne, Major Ashley Lawrence, Captain LeClair, Lucie St. Dean (the only feminine nom de

plume I have found ascribed to Ellis), Captain Tom, and Captain Vassour.

The End

Appendix

For the convenience of readers the seventy-nine names discussed in the article are listed below alphabetically within their classifications, which are briefly defined.

(1) **Proven Pseudonyms:** (i.e. fully proven as belonging to Ellis). Captain "Bruin" Adams, Captain J. F. C. Adams, J. G. Bethune, J. H. Bethune, Captain Latham C. Carleton, Frank Faulkner, Colonel H. R. Gordon, Oswald A. Gwynne, Captain R. M. Hawthorne, Lieutenant Ned Hunter, Lieutenant R. H. Jayne, Charles E. La Salle, George E. La Salle, Seward D. Lisle, Captain H. R. Millbank, Billux Muller, Robin Playfellow, Geoffrey Randolph, Lieutenant J. H. Randolph, Rollo Robins Junior, Seelin Robins, E. A. St. Mox, Egbert S. Thomas. (23)

(2) **Probable Pseudonyms:** (i.e. supported by convincing evidence). P. T. Barnum, Boynton K. Belknap M. D., Captain Latham T. Carleton, Gerald A. Gwynne, Oscar A. Gwynne, Boynton Randolph M. D., Captain Emerson Rodman, A U. S. Detective. (8)

(3) **Possible Pseudonyms:** (i.e. supported by debateable evidence). Mattie M. Boteler, William H. Budd, George R. Bushnell, Russell Cummings, Clark W. Goldthwait, Rev. T. De Haven, William J. Havens, Gerald G. Honoye, T. R. Hulme, Captain Marcy Hunter, U. S. A., Captain Charles M. Kemp, John J. Mackart, Frank D. McSpedon, Ralph Morgan, Leonard Morton, Percy B. Stafford, Colonel Tom Travis, R. G. Williams. (18).

(4) **Improbable Pseudonyms:** (i.e. which, on the evidence available, appear unlikely to have been Ellis nom de plume). Mahlon A. Brown, L. Augustus Jones, Louis Legrand M. D., "One Who Slept on the Prairie", "An Old Hunter". (5).

(5) **Circumstantial Pseudonyms:** (i.e. favoured by circumstantial evidence). Howard M. Boynton, Edwin

Emerson, Captain Hamilton Holmes, Captain Wheeler U. S. A. (4).

(6) **Conjectural Pseudonyms:** (i.e. on which no evidence has been located). Captain C. B. Ashley, Lieutenant Henry L. Boone, Warne Ellis, Captain George Grenville, U. S. A., Lieutenant Hollis Hayne, Captain M. Hoynes, Major Ashley Lawrence, Captain LeClair, Lucie St. Dean, Captain Tom, Captain Vassour. (11).

(7) **Disproven Pseudonyms:** (i.e. verified as not being pen names of Ellis). Major Lewis W. Carson, Frank H. Converse, George H. Coomer, Ad. H. Gibson, William Murray Graydon, Adelbert Gumore, Lieutenant Keene U. S. A., Frank L. Stanton, Lieutenant Alfred B. Thorne, Edward S. Van Zile. (10).

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THE ROCKLAND TERROR CARRIES ON ANOTHER BIOGRAPHY

By Ima Spoutin

Possibly some of you fellers read my biography on G. Fred Orphal, giving you some highlights on the doings of a fellow member, and I promised to again let you in on one or more members with whom I have either corresponded or met in the naked flesh.

This brother may be of more interest than G. Fred with his marvelous inventions, the subject pertaining to no other than William Burns of Rockland Me. a worthy individual, deals with something that I am almost sure will touch the spot, and that is wimmen. Wimmen, fellers, wimmen. Be there a soul so dead that this does not cause you to sit up a bit straighter in your chair, or stand more at attention?

In this catamagory, some have trouble with their wives, some with other peoples wives, some with just sweetie pies. Well with Bill tis first his wife. A dainty dish so I'm told who slightly outweighs him by

enough avoirdupois to offset any physical violence he might dare attempt. During any slight argument such as regular up to date married folks indulge in Bill is usually out for a full count of twenty. More or slightly less, not enough to go back and take up where he left off. The kitchen stove being supplied with four sturdy legs a foot high, a most convenient place to throw him under. If under said stove there reposes perhaps a garbage can, no room for Bill, the cellar stairs is used and he lands gracefully on a bit of unresisting cement. In spite of this he still retains his admiration for the opposite sex,—don't we all?

Now it seems so the story goes as I heard through the grape vine that next door to our hero there resides a most gorgeous young eye full who in the summer delights in sun bathing to an unusual extent, adorned in just enough to keep out of jail. Well now lets be honest, who could resist if tis displayed to the public eye only a few feet away? Very few can stand before me and honestly say they would be horrified. And such was our Bill, not strong enough to keep away from the window, his will power had left him completely.

Of course during the free entertainment supplied he had to be most careful that his mate was in another section of the house or else it would have been either the stove or the cellar stairs. But that being the only obstacle, a tough one really, he had plain sailing. Just the naked eye did not seem to fill the bill for Bill, so opera glasses became a must. These he had and made good use of, which added to his delight. I offered him a pair I had so he could see twice as much, but that would have carried it to indecency.

The summer passed all too quickly, then came the cool and cold weather, everything covered with snow and the girl covered too. So Bill turned to his daily task, the making of barrells, his daily chore, making the kind that beer comes in, and the other kind used for people who have to come home in one. You can all imagine the dreary months before again summer rolls

around and free entertainment is in force. As this chicken grows more and mature the interest increases, so finally the situation becomes acute and causes many sleepless nights. It jest aint fair. A case of a feller always reaching for the moon, a place they tell me man will reach some day.

The queer thing about this reaching for the moon however is that once tis attained the dillusion is far more painful than the reality. And that's what will happen when our great scientists get to the moon, if they ever do, they will be so durn glad to get back, IF they can, that good old Mother Earth will seem like Paradise with all its trials and tribulations.

So winds up my tale about Wild Bill, and now you know why I titled it *The Rockland Terror Carries On*. So let's see what other member we can give a going over as seen through the key hole.

A very emphatic MUST for everyone interested in Western Americana, and in particular for every Dime Novel Roundup subscriber interested in dime novels of the Old West, is the purchase of a copy of Herschel C. Logan's biography of Texas Jack, *BUCKSKIN AND SATIN*, just published by the Stackpole Company.

Chapter 11, "Hero of the Dime Novels," is, as the heading indicates, devoted to the novels about Texas Jack, illustrated with reproductions of the dime novel and story-paper covers. In fact, this handsome volume is illustrated throughout with photos, playbills, etc.—the illustrations alone are worth the price of the book. Take my word for it, you will be pleasantly surprised when you get your copy of *BUCKSKIN AND SATIN*, for only once in a blue moon is a biography like this published. Mr. Logan is to be congratulated for making such a notable contribution to the great drama of our Western frontier. Our friend and fellow member of the Roundup campfire, Col. Charles D. Randolph, 'Buckskin Bill,' has a poem about Texas Jack in the book, page 204. There is a chronology, a biblio-

graphy, an index and a list of acknowledgments, with several Roundup members mentioned. If you have to order direct from the publishers, The Stackpole Company, Telegraph Press Building, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, add 12¢ for postage to the price of the book, which is \$3.95—and well worth it!

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

133. Tony M. Peterson, Route #2, Cochran, Pa. (new address).

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Flash! Another bachelor member of the Brotherhood has been bitten by the flea of matrimony—Benny Tighe of Worcester, Mass., has found a maiden damsel, and is soon to have all strings tied and knotted, if not already. We all wish you and the Mrs. the very best of everything that can be had, all around, Beny. Who's next?

Bill Langell says that the "Biography of Mrs. Frank Leslie," was reviewed Oct. 4th, 1953, in the San Francisco Chronicle. It seems that Mrs. Leslie was a gay and frisky actress when Leslie married her. When Frank Leslie died, his publishing business was badly in debt, but she proved to be a capable journalist. She pulled it out of the hole and eventually made \$100,000 a year for herself. In the review it says that she edited Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly, "the cheapest and best magazine in the world," and Frank Leslie's Illustrated News. The article does not mention his other publications.

We hear that Jim Martin is out in the desert. Must be plenty warm out there, I'll bet.

We lost only two members this year, Geo. H. Hess Jr., of St. Paul, Minn. March 22nd and Joseph Parks sometime in August, both in 1954. The year previous we lost a good many more.

Roy Swanstrom writes in that the George Hess collection of dime novels, valued at \$29,000, was willed to the University of Minnesota.

Ralph Smith says there were, he

believes, only 8 numbers of the Temperance Library ever published. He says No. 8, page 22, has a full reproduction of War Library #74, so no doubt Sibley was the publisher of the Temperance Library. No. 1 was issued November 23rd, 1883. Anyone having a set of these, has a very rare set, even I don't have a one in my collection.

Early in July, Carl Linville, his wife and son took an automobile trip of 3700 miles—his son did all the driving.

Bill Gander is working steadily on his next number of Story Paper Collector.

What's the matter with Fred T. Singleton? None of us have heard a thing from him in a dog's age.

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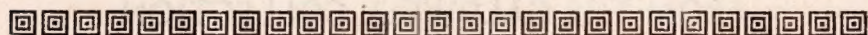
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